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Services Division

European Satellites Committee

(Meeting on Wednesday, 3 October 1956, 1330)

The Committee discussed the availability of the 1955 Polish Statistical Handbook and the wider extent of its coverage -- as compared to the recent Soviet one. Mention was also made of the forthcoming Hungarian Statistical Handbook which is not yet available for general distribution. The Committee's attention was drawn to FDD report U-8517 of 12 July 1956. This is a translation containing some Satellite production and trade data for recent years with occasional commodity breakdowns.

25X1A9a Mr. [REDACTED] of S/OM discussed his research in Civil Defense developments in the Satellites. After a general introduction into Soviet Bloc civil defense measures, a Satellite by Satellite run-down was made. The generally compulsory civil defense service of all able-bodied people is accompanied in most Satellites by a publicized effort for recruitment and training in civil defense procedures. These involve group training in first aid, fire-fighting, security, anti-gas and (recently) in anti-atomic and anti-BW measures. Satellite organizations for civil defense closely parallel the Soviet model in structure, training and techniques.

The seriousness of Satellite civil defense is shown by the use of critical materials such as cement and steel in a program for shelter construction. The ring of large shelters around the Bulgarian capital, Sofia, was discussed as a trend toward constructing special shelters outside target areas. Such shelters will be of value for preserving military government, and civil defense personnel for post-attack activity.

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Agenda for 10 October 1956. Room 2130, "M" Building, 1330.

1. Current Items 25X1A9a
2. Mr. [REDACTED] of the general division of OCI will talk on the current Polish political and economic situation.

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